

## TOPICS IN RESPIRATORY DISEASE.

THIS is a series of 5 pocket sized books produced in association with Update Publications Ltd. Each of the books has approximately 100 pages with both black and white and colour illustrations. The quality of the individual articles is similar to that found in the Update journal and in many ways are excellent summaries of available relevant information about the individual groups of diseases.

The books are written essentially for membership students and occasionally there is a tendency to stress the less common diagnosis. Treatment aspects, however, have in general been kept to very standard views and hence are perhaps no more helpful than standard textbooks.

***Radiology of the Respiratory System.*** By C Flower. (Pp 122, Illustrated. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This book has to be held horizontally in view of the direction of print necessitated by the size of the figures. The standard of reproduction of the radiographs is limited by the paper quality but is in most cases satisfactory. Apart from these problems, my overall impression of this book is that it will be of great benefit to all interested in respiratory radiology. As such it could be used alone, not requiring the other books to complement it.

***Assessment of the Patient with Lung Disease.*** Edited by JR Webb. (Pp 92, Figs 29. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

The standard of the chapters varies from final MB to specialist grading and I found the ones on lung function and microbiology to be excellent. Some of the other techniques such as pleural biopsy are dealt with in detail, while others such as bronchial biopsy are sketchy. Pleural fluid cytology is not mentioned.

***Respiratory Infection and Tumours.*** By R White. (Pp 92, Plates 16. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This is a difficult combination of subjects to deal with in one small book and there is a tendency to concentrate on some aspects at the expense of others, e.g. there are 9 lines on pneumococcal pneumonia against 37 for mycoplasma pneumonia. This must imply that another text book has been read. Tuberculosis is very well dealt with, however, as is the section on tumours.

***Airways Obstruction.*** By DM Geddes. (Pp 92, Illustrated. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

Most will learn something from this book especially with regard to the inter-relationships between the different aetiologies. Dr Geddes also takes a common sense approach to therapy. If the other books in the series have been read, then there is probably too much repetitive physiology which with different diagrams may lead to confusion. Incidentally, it only briefly deals the thorny problem of long term oxygen therapy.

***Interstitial Lung Disease.*** By CAC Pickering, L Doyle and KB Carroll. (Pp 116, Figs 26. £5.95). Lancaster: MTP Press, 1981.

This is an adequate summary of the major conditions causing this problem. Although valuable for general knowledge, much of the respiratory information has been padded by non-respiratory aspects of systemic diseases, e.g. 6 per cent of the book is on non-respiratory sarcoidosis.

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